

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Applicant has carefully considered the official communication dated July 16, 2003. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and the following remarks are fully responsive to the official communication.
2. The claims have been amended in light of the official communication. It is submitted that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.
3. In paragraph 1 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 9 because there is no antecedent basis for the term "longitudinal recess". The claims have been amended to traverse this ground of objection.
4. In paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 - 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akhavain et al.
5. In support of this rejection, the Examiner has stated that: "Akhavain et al disclose an ink distribution assembly for a page width ink jet printhead (column 4, lines 48 -50) in the form of at least one printhead chip (40)..."
6. Applicant respectfully submits that, on a reading of column 4, lines 38 to 50, there is not described an "ink distribution assembly". Rather, in the same column, line 49, there is described an "ink delivery system 50".
7. The Examiner has further stated that Akhavian et al discloses "a cover that is engageable with the carrier at the ink supply side (52)..."
8. In line 62, column 4 of Akhavian et al reference numeral 52 refers to a "manifold". It is respectfully submitted that the manifold of Akhavian et al is not a "cover". This is emphasized by the paragraphs below.

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9. The Examiner has stated that in Akhavian et al "the cover and the ink supply side of the carrier define ink pathways that are in fluid communication with respective feed formations, one of the carrier and the cover defining ink supply openings in fluid communication with respective ink pathways (column 6, lines 19-30)..."
10. It is respectfully submitted that this is incorrect. It is respectfully submitted that the "manifold" of Akhavian et al is not described in any detail. It follows that it is not correct to make the statement that the carrier and the "manifold" define ink pathways.
11. In this regard, it should be noted that claim 1 describes, in general, a carrier and a cover that between them define "discrete feed formations", "at least one ink supply formation", "at least one passage in fluid communication between the, or each, ink supply formation and at least one of the feed formations" and "ink pathways".
12. It is respectfully submitted that the carrier and the manifold of Akhavian et al simply defines "ink passages 323". It is therefore respectfully submitted that the carrier of Akhavian et al is substantially different to the carrier of claim 1.
13. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Akhavian et al does not anticipate claim 1 of the present application. Claims 2 to 12 are all dependent on claim 1. It follows that Applicant submits that Akhavian et al does not anticipate these claims.
14. In paragraph 5 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akhavian et al in view of Thiel et al.
15. In support of this, the Examiner has stated that Akhavain et al disclose "everything claimed"... "with the exception of a plastic carrier". In view of the above paragraphs, Applicant respectfully submits that this statement is incorrect.
16. In paragraph 6 of the Detailed Action the Examiner has rejected claims 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Akhavain et al in view of Su et al.

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17. In support of this, the Examiner has stated that "Akhavain et al disclose the invention of claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 14 as discussed above". In view of the preceding paragraphs, Applicant respectfully submits that this statement is incorrect.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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